



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
BALTIMORE DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 1715
BALTIMORE, MD 21203-1715

May 7, 2008

Operations Division

SUBJECT: Maintenance Dredging, Honga River and Tar Bay, Dorchester County, Maryland

PUBLIC NOTICE NN-08-06

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Pursuant to Sections 313 and 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (33 USC 1323 and 1344) NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, pending availability of funds the Baltimore District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers proposes to perform maintenance dredging of the Federal navigation project at Honga River and Tar Bay, Dorchester County, Maryland.

The Federal project provides for a channel 7 feet deep and 60 feet wide from the 7-foot depth contour in Chesapeake Bay through Tar Bay and Fishing Creek to Honga River; and for a channel in Back Creek 60 feet wide from the 7-foot depth contour in Honga River to the head of Back Creek, with a turning basin of the same depth, 150 feet long, and 200 feet wide. Material from Honga River and Tar Bay will be removed to a depth of 7 feet plus a 2-foot allowable overdepth. The Federal channel may be realigned to take advantage of naturally deep water.

Approximately 160,000 cubic yards of material consisting primarily of fine sand, clays and silt, are to be hydraulically removed. The placement site will be along the western shore of Barren Island as used in the past. Rock will be installed as a continuation along the shoreline and material placed behind the rock, graded and planted to create a wetland. Older tubes that have failed along the shoreline will be raised with stone so it will be suitable for placement. The area to be dredged, as well as the potential dredged material placement site is shown on the accompanying map.

A review of data generated for preparation of the Environmental Assessment, including a preliminary 404(b) (1) evaluation, indicates that no significant environmental impacts are expected and that preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not warranted. Since the placement site has been previously used, the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) documentation is anticipated to be a Categorical Exclusion and a Record of Environmental Consideration which will be available upon request. The proposed maintenance dredging complies with and will be conducted in a manner consistent with the approved Maryland Coastal Zone Management Program. The proposed project will comply with the provisions of the Endangered Species Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act, as amended, and it is not anticipated to have any adverse effect on endangered species, or essential fish habitat for Federally managed species.

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Maintenance of the project is being coordinated with the following Federal, State and local agencies: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service; State of Maryland Department of the Environment, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Historical Trust, and Dorchester County Commissioners.

The decision whether to accomplish the work proposed in the public notice will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed work on the public interest. The decision will reflect the national concern for the protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit that reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among those are conservation, aesthetics, fish and wildlife values, general environmental concerns, economics, historic values, navigation, energy needs, recreation, safety, water quality, food production, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

Designation of the proposed disposal site for dredged material associated with this Federal project shall be made through the application of guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, in conjunction with the Secretary of the Army. If these guidelines alone prohibit the designation of the proposed disposal site, any potential impairment to the maintenance of navigation including any economic impact on navigation and anchorage which would result from the failure to use the disposal site will also be considered.

Any person who has an interest which may be affected by the placement of this dredged material may request a public hearing or provide comments in writing. This request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, P.O. Box 1715, Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715, within 30 days of the date of this notice and must clearly set forth the interest which may be affected and the manner in which the interest may be affected by this activity.

It is requested that you communicate the foregoing information concerning proposed work to any persons known by you to be interested and who not being known to this office, do not receive a copy of this notice.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, has applied for Water Quality Certification from the State of Maryland. Any comments relating to water quality concerns should also be forwarded to the Maryland Department of the Environment, Standards and

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Certification, Montgomery Park Business Center, 1800 Washington Boulevard, Suite 430, Baltimore, Maryland 21230, within 30 days of the date of this notice. Questions regarding the content of this notice may be brought to the attention of Mr. Robert Blama, of this office, at 410-962-6068.



DONALD P. SNYDER
Acting Chief, Operations Division

Enclosure

